

**What is Claimed is:**

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1. A method for communicating a message relating to the delivery of a mail piece within a mailing system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) creating a set of data relating to a request for a special service, said set of data including an electronic address;
  - b) evidencing said set of special service request data into a predetermined location on said mail piece;
  - c) capturing from said predetermined location on said mail piece said set of data relating to said request for special service;
  - d) performing said captured request for special service
  - e) creating a recipient response message, and
  - f) sending said message to said captured electronic address.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said recipient response message further includes:
  - a) an image of said mailpiece;
  - b) a recipient response to a mailer; and
  - c) an image of a recipient signature.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 further including the steps of:
  - a) creating a file including said recipient message; and
  - b) archiving said file.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said electronic address is an e-mail address.

5. A method for responding to the distribution of a mail piece within a mailing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a set of data relating to a request for a special service, said set of data including an electronic address;
- b) incorporating said set of special service request data into a predetermined location on said mail piece;
- c) obtaining from said predetermined location on said mail piece said set of data relating to said request for special service;
- d) performing said obtained request for special service;
- e) creating a message, said message including:
  - i) a set of mail piece data, said mail piece data including said set of data relating to said special service
  - iii) an image of said mail piece;
  - iv) an image of a recipient signature;
  - v) a message from said recipient; and
- f) sending said message to said obtained electronic address.

6. The method as claimed in claimed 5 further including the steps of:

- a) creating a file including said message and a set of mail piece data;
- and

- b) archiving said file.
7. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said predetermined location is a digital postmark.
8. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said electronic address is an e-mail address.
9. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said electronic address is a facsimile number.
10. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said special service request is an electronic confirmation of receipt.
11. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said special service request is an electronic communication.
12. A method for employing digital postage mark as part of special services in a mailing system comprising the steps of:
- a) creating a set of postal data required of postage payment evidencing of a mail piece;
  - b) creating a set of special service data defining a special service for said mail piece, said set of special service data includes an electronic

address;

- c) creating a digital postmark including said set of postal data and said set of special service data;
- d) encrypting said encrypted digital postmark;
- e) printing said digital postmark on said mail piece
- f) processing said mail piece to obtain said digital postmark;
- g) determining said special service from said digital postmark;
- h) performing said special service;
- i) creating a message, said message including:
  - i) a set of mail piece data;
  - ii) said set of data relating to said special service;
  - iii) an image of said mail piece
  - iv) an image of a recipient signature;
  - v) a message from said recipient; and
- j) sending said message file to said obtained mailer address.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12 further including the steps of:

- a) decrypting said digital postmark; and
- b) determining mail piece validity by verifying said digital postmark.

14. The method as claimed in claim 12 further including creating a file including the steps of

- a) said message; and

15. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said electronic address is an e-mail address.

16. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said electronic address is a facsimile number.

17. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said special service is confirmation of receipt.

18. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said special service is a third party communication.

19. System for providing a message relating to the distribution of a mail piece within a mailing system comprising:

- a) means for determining, during said mail piece delivery, a set of information contained at a predetermined location on a mail piece, said set of information including an electronic address;
- b) means for creating a message; and
- c) means for sending said message to said electronic address.

20. A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mailer message includes a recipient response to said mailer.

21. A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mailer message includes an

22. A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mailer message includes an image of a recipient signature.

23. The method as claimed in claim 19 further including a means for creating a message file and a means for archiving said message file.

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